

Elderly and Disabled Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 3, 2007

Vice Chair Craig Yates called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.  
In attendance: Myrtle Braxton, Richard Burnett, Herbert Crowle, Mary Lawrence, Marshall Loring, and Bruce Oka.  
Excused: Janet Abelson, Eleanor Bloch, Paul Branson, Richard Hedges, Dennis Trenten, Doug Weir, Shirlee Zane.

Audience Member Self-introductions

- Ben Kinney, Jr., Disability Rights Enforcement, Education Services (DREES)
- Bob Planthold, Self
- Alec MacDonald, Bay Area Monitor

EDAC Minutes

For lack of a quorum, action to approve April's minutes was deferred.

Advisory Council Report

Mr. Crowle reported on the April 2007 Advisory Council meeting.

EDAC Subcommittee Reports

*Access/Service Issues Subcommittee* Chair Oka reported on activity of San Francisco's Taxicab Commission. He emphasized the need to enforce rules that are already in place; otherwise, improvements in mobility for people with disabilities cannot be expected.

Staff Liaison Report

Among other items, Ursula Vogler said members would be e-mailed MTC's Public Participation Plan (mailing to members lacking Internet access). She said that after today's meeting EDAC's Principles/Work Plan Subcommittee would discuss amendments to the committee's current work plan.

### Legislative Report

Rebecca Long summarized state legislation pertaining to EDAC:

- SB 426 (Kehoe) regarding the creation of a high-level position at the state Office of Emergency Services focused on access for the disabled community in emergency preparedness and response activities;
- SB 747 (Corbett) regarding disabled persons' equal access rights to various private facilities;
- AB 470 (DeSaulnier) regarding safety requirements on “electric personal assistive mobility devices” such as electric scooters;
- AB 453 (Huffman) regarding parking of vehicles equipped with a side-loading lift or ramp used by disabled persons;
- The governor will release the May Revise (of the budget) on May 14.

In response to member advice discouraging legislation that could lead to unfunded mandates (SB 747), and encouraging legislation with potential to place a member of the disabled population in a statewide position affecting access issues during emergencies (SB 426), Ms. Long encouraged members to write directly to the bill authors (Senators Corbett and Kehoe).

### Update to Funding Proposal for Prop. 1B Regional Transit Funding

Anne Richman reviewed comments received on major elements of the proposal as previously presented to EDAC and the Partnership Board for distributing \$347 million in regional transit funds.

She sought input on the revised proposal:

- Q: What are the core projects?  
A: Muni central subway, BART to Warm Springs, and rapid bus on VTA's busiest line.
- Q: What about zero-emission buses?  
A: The statewide regulation only applies to certain transit operators with respect to their particular fleet makeup.
- Q: What about the issue of separating transit funding for the elderly and disabled from the transit funding for Lifeline?  
Would funding be lessened if transit for the disabled and seniors

population were subtracted from it?

A: The issue is being addressed in the draft Coordinated Plan.

- Member advice: there are few good studies being done on hydrogen fuels, potential leaks, and the fact that water vapor is also volatile.

### Regional Transportation Plan (RTP): Vision, Approach, Goals and Performance Assessments

Ray Kan's presentation included six revised goals and the two new goals of 1) transportation security and 2) climate change in response to the state's goal of reducing greenhouse gases.

#### Comments

- Try to include bicycle and pedestrian enhancements in RTP
- Try to include enforcement in HOT lanes
- Focus less on negatives as in reducing vehicle trips and, instead, focus on the positives:
  - connecting bicycle lanes and bike paths
  - enticing residents to be out and about in their own neighborhood
  - remaining mindful of the "Lexus" HOT lane argument that such lanes are less used by the poor
  - considering a regional sidewalk approach modeled on the regional bicycle plan for applying to sidewalk designs and configurations in new housing developments
  - refraining from sidewalks that curve and switch back or are so steep that holding their guardrails burns the palms of wheelchair users on the descent
- For dwellings near major transit lines:
  - Interior -- promoting sufficiently wide doorways and hallways for walkers and wheelchair use
  - Exterior -- promoting accessible common areas, especially accessible to transit
- Look at access to and from hospitals, regional transit facilities, and boundary areas in MTC's region
- Shuttles ought not run only during commute times
- Each EDAC member should be involved in public outreach regarding MTC's regional plan



### Coordinated Plan

Therese Knudsen updated members on the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan: MTC's consultant has completed identifying transport needs of the elderly, disabled and low-income populations. The consultant completed over 30 meetings (including attending over 20 existing meetings) with over 500 participants. Coming up: components on improved coordination and reducing gaps related either to driving, transit, paratransit, etc. The draft plan is expected in June or July and will be brought to EDAC for comment. Once comments from stakeholders are incorporated, the plan will be presented to the Commission for adoption.

Major lessons so far: need for connectivity, especially between counties; spatial and temporal gaps identified; better facilities needed; improved signage; need to address service needs beyond the ADA.

### Member comments:

- Improve transit coordination because some core cities duplicate routes.
- Improve the labor negotiating environment.
- Fund the ADA. It needs to be a funded mandate so that it has enforcement power. MTC can help with that -- remember the money and effort spent getting ADA passed.
- Exercise caution when involving federal agencies because you may get what you wish for (citing OSHA as an example).

### Other Business/Next Meeting/Adjournment

There was no other business. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2007. Mr. Crowle moved and Mr. Loring seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.